

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 08589 01 OF 02 262144Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-02 NEA-10 ACDA-12 HA-05 AF-10 AID-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 EB-08 /119 W
-----075319 262205Z /23
R 262114Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5503

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 08589

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, SP, US
SUBJECT: DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US

1. SUMMARY. IN MY FIRST MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ, HE EXPRESSED A DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP AND TO ACT AS A FIRM NATURAL ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM REGARDING THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN SPAIN, FELT THAT THE SOCIALIST OPPOSITION WAS BECOMING MORE MODERATE, AND EXPECTED SOME AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED WITH THE BASQUES REGARDING THE NEW CONSTITUTION. THE MAJOR THREAT TO SPANISH DEMOCRACY IS TERRORISM, SUAREZ ASSERTED. IN THIS CONTEXT HE ASKED FOR COOPERATION FROM US IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS OF SPANISH TERRORISTS, WHO MAY BE LINKED TO LIBYA, ALGERIA AND PERHAPS THE USSR. THE UNITED STATES COULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IN PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR, IF THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, IN GIVING SPAIN THE BEST TERMS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT. HE WAS FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY. BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE AS POSITIVE AS WE POSSIBLY CAN IN RESPONDING TO SUAREZ ON BOTH TERRORISM AND DEFENSE MATTERS AND REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO RESPOND TO HIM. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 08589 01 OF 02 262144Z

2. IN LONG, RELAXED CONVERSATION WITH ME DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON HIM JULY 24, PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ CALLED FOR NEW EFFORTS TO BUILD STRONGER AND CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN. SUAREZ SAID SPAIN'S TOTAL COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, ITS FIRM ALIGNMENT WITH THE WEST, ITS STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

THE YOUTH AND DYNAMISM OF ITS POPULATION, AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA, COMBINE TO MAKE IT A NATURAL ALLY OF THE U.S. AND IT IS FULLY PREPARED TO PLAY THAT ROLE. HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE U.S. TO DO ITS PART. HE WELCOMED ME HERE AND SAID HE WOULD EXTEND EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE CLOSER COOPERATION.

2. CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY. SUAREZ SAID WHILE DEMOCRACY WAS NOT FULLY CONSOLIDATED IN SPAIN, HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE AND THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE. HE FELT THAT HIS PATIENT WORK WITH FELIPE GONZALEZ AND THE SOCIALISTS HAD ALREADY PAID OFF IN THE FORM OF GONZALEZ' DECLARATIONS ACCEPTING ASSOCIATION WITH THE WEST AND EVEN THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN BASES HERE. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY WOULD CONTINUE TO MOVE FURTHER IN THE DIRECTION OF BECOMING A REASONABLY RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION. SUAREZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD EUROCOMMUNISM FOR THE TACTIC THAT IT IS AND DID NOT TRUST CARRILLO AND THE COMMUNISTS, BUT HE FELT THAT MUCH HAD BEEN GAINED BY GETTING THE COMMUNISTS TO TAKE A RELATIVELY MODERATE LINE AND TO JOIN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSENSUS AS THEY HAD DONE. HIS GENERAL TACTIC WAS TO AVOID PUTTING ANY PERSON OR GROUP IN A CORNER FROM WHICH HE WOULD BE FORCED TO FIGHT HIS WAY OUT. HE PREFERRED TO SEEK SOME REASONABLE ARRANGEMENT SO THAT THE OTHER SIDE COULD BE BROUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 08589 01 OF 02 262144Z

AROUND GRADUALLY TO FUNCTION IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

3. SUAREZ WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE BASQUES WOULD VOTE FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND THAT SOME ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE WOULD BE WORKED OUT. HE SAID THAT THE NON-BASQUE PARTIES ALREADY HAVE A MAJORITY IN THE REGION WHICH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO WIN IN ANY REFERENDUM, BUT HE WANTED TO BE SURE THAT THE BASQUE POPULATION ITSELF ALSO VOTED FAVORABLY. HE EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME AGREEMENT EVENTUALLY REACHED WITH THE PNV, PROBABLY IN TIME TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTITUTION DURING THE REFERENDUM.

4. THE TERRORIST THREAT. SUAREZ THOUGHT THAT THE ONLY REAL THREAT TO THE CONTINUANCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WAS THAT POSED BY THE TERRORISTS, AS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LATEST ASSASSINATION OF TWO SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS. HE CONSIDERED IT CRITICAL FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO BE ABLE TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THIS TERRORIST THREAT, FIRST FOR THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE COUNTRY AND SECOND TO KEEP THE MILITARY CONVINCED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR THEM TO SEEK ANY DIRECT

INTERVENTION. SUAREZ MADE A SPECIAL PLEA FOR U.S. COOPERATION WITH HIS GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ON TERRORISM. HE CONSIDERED THIS ESSENTIAL TO INSURE THE CONTINUATION AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN. HE SAID HE HAS SOME INFORMATION THAT SPANISH TERRORISTS ARE SUPPORTED BY LIBYA AND ALGERIA, AND SOME SUSPICIONS THAT THEY ARE ALSO SUPPORTED BY THE KGB AND THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID HE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION WE COULD SHARE WITH HIM ON SOVIET OR OTHER FOREIGN CONNECTION WITH SPANISH TERRORIST GROUPS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 08589 02 OF 02 262145Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
MCT-02 NEA-10 ACDA-12 HA-05 AF-10 AID-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 EB-08 /119 W
-----075344 262204Z /23

R 262114Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5504

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 08589

5. I TOLD SUAREZ THAT WE DID NOT TARGET ANY DOMESTIC GROUP AND UNDER OUR LAWS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER, TO THE EXTENT THAT WE DEVELOPED ANY INFORMATION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES I WAS SURE THAT WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SHARE THAT INFORMATION WITH HIM.

6. SUAREZ EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION ON THE DOMESTIC TARGET BUT SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE WE COULD PROVIDE WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS, INCLUDING TRAINING AND FINANCING. HE STRESSED THE URGENCY OF BEGINNING THIS COOPERATION. HE SAID HE HAD RAISED THE MATTER PREVIOUSLY IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY CONCRETE RESULTS.

7. U.S.-SPANISH MILITARY COOPERATION. SUAREZ SAID ONE OTHER AREA IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES COULD BE

ESPECIALLY HELPFUL AT THIS TIME WAS IN PROVIDING CERTAIN CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THAT IF THE SPANISH BUDGET PERMITTED, HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO FINANCE THE PRIORITY ITEMS BECAUSE HE KNOWS THEY ARE VERY BADLY NEEDED. HOWEVER, WITH THE PRESSING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 08589 02 OF 02 262145Z

SOCIAL NEEDS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE POORER SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION WHICH HE COULD NOT POSSIBLY IGNORE, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DEVOTE THE REQUIRED FUNDS TO PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AT THIS TIME. HE HOPED U.S. WOULD PROVIDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON A GRANT BASIS, BUT FAILING THIS, HE HOPED IT WOULD AT LEAST BE FURNISHED ON CREDIT WITH THE MOST FAVORABLE TERMS POSSIBLE. HE FELT THAT HELPING SPAIN TO INCREASE ITS DEFENSE POSTURE WOULD ALSO BE SERVING A BASIC UNITED STATES INTEREST TO SEE SPAIN AS A STRONG PARTNER. HE CONSIDERED THE VISIT OF DEFENSE MINISTER AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT GUTIERREZ MELLADO TO THE UNITED STATES TO BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, AND HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE AS FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL TO HIM AS POSSIBLE.

8. PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ HAD THE HIGHEST WORDS OF PRAISE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO IMPRESSED HIM AS A PERSON OF THE GREATEST SERENITY AND INTEGRITY. HE HAD SIMILAR WORDS OF PRAISE FOR SECRETARY VANCE AND HIS EVIDENT READINESS AND WILLINGNESS TO DO WHATEVER HE COULD TO BE HELPFUL. HE FELT THAT ALL SIGNS POINTED TO GREATLY IMPROVED COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

9. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT SUAREZ AND HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE TERRORIST THREAT. FOLLOWING THE BONN SUMMIT DECLARATION ON TERRORISM, THEY EVIDENTLY EXPECT THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL BE PREPARED TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO BE HELPFUL, AT LEAST IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

10. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WHATEVER INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 08589 02 OF 02 262145Z

CAN BE PASSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY REGARDING ANYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT ANY INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS OF THE LOCAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT I CAN SAY

GENERALLY CONCERNING COOPERATION ON ANTI-TERRORISM.

TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMOCRACY, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID08589
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780307-0155
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780719/aaaaapvr.tel
Line Count: 226
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e102586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1881972
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e102586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014